

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR EAGLEBURGER

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 6005 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO AMCONSUL
ZAGREB. DATED 13 SEP 76.

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 6005

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR YO US PINS

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV MEDIA BLAST US OVER SKYJACKING

1. SUMMARY: COLLUSION BETWEEN EMIGRE TERRORISTS AND
"CERTAIN VERY POWERFUL AND VERY INFLUENTIAL" CIRCLES
IN THE UNITED STATES IS BUT ONE OF THE OFFENSIVE THEMES
IN YUGOSLAV PRESS COMMENT ON HIJACKING OF TWA AIRLINER.
USING TIME-HONORED COMMUNIST PLOY OF DEFLECTING ATTENTION
FROM REAL CUASE VIA THE BIG LIE, MEDIA CALL AFFAIR
CONSCIOUS CONTINUATION OF PRE-COLOMBO CAMPAIGN OF
PRESSURE AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT,
CROW THAT HIJACKING IS LOGICAL RESULT OF UNITED STATES
TOLERATION OF EMIGRE TERRORISTS, CRITICIZE UNITED STATES
HANDLING OF SKYJACKING, AND SHOW LITTLE CONCERN FOR
LOSS OF LIFE AND DANGER INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

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WM SKYJACKING OF TWA AIRLINER DOMINATES PRESS SEPT 13, BRINGING TO NEW INTENSITY RADIO, TELEVISION AND PRESS CAMPAIGN BEGUN SEPT 11. "POLITIKA" GIVES THE STORY HALF OF PAGE ONE AND ALMOST ALL OF PAGE TWO. THE SHORTER "BORBA" GIVES IT HALF OF PAGE FOUR. TANJUG WIRE AND RADIO AND TELEVISION CONTINUE TO CARRY COMMENT. TANJUG ALSO MENTIONS PETKOVIC'S DEMARCHE TO "IGLEBERGER." CERTAIN THEMES HAVE APPEARED REPEATEDLY SINCE CAMPAIGN BEGUN.

3. COLLUSION AND CONSPIRACY - HIJACKERS AND WHOLE EXTREMIST EMIGRE MOVEMENT ARE PORTRAYED AS BEING "HIRELINGS", A PRODUCT OF AMERICAN RATHER THAN YUGOSLAV POLITICS. TANJUG'S DIPLOMATIC EDITOR WRITES THAT THE HIJACKING "IS JUST ONE IN A SERIES OF CAREFULLY PLANNED ANTI-YUGOSLAV ACTS CONCEIVED IN CERTAIN VERY POWERFUL AND VERY INFLUENTIAL REACTIONARY US CIRCLES..." "BORBA" EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OF EMIGRES IS "DEVELOPED, ORGANIZED AND DIRECTED" IN UNSPECIFIC CIRCLES IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH DISLIKE YUGOSLAVIA AS IT IS NOW AND WISH TO ATTACK ITS NON-ALIGNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE.

4. PART OF A LARGER CAMPAIGN -- SOME EDITORIALS SEE THE SKYJACKING AS BUT THE LATEST INCIDENT IN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. ACCORDING TO "TANJUG" DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, "THIS CONTINUED CAMPAIGN AND THE TERRORIST ACTS, COUPLED WITH THE IMMENSE COVERAGE IN THE INFORMATION MEDIA OF THIS INCIDENT, ARE OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT JEOPARDIZING YUGOSLAVIA'S PRESTIGE AND ITS INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY AFTER COLOMBO AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON THE EVE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION." IN AN EARLIER EDITORIAL, HE SAYS THAT "THIS ANTI-YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN WAS INTENSIFIED IN REACTIONARY QUARTERS IN THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY ON THE EVE OF THE FIFTH CONFERENCE... OF THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES IN COLOMBO..." (PRESIDENT TITO AND THE YUGOSLAV PRESS CLAIMED AFTERMATH OF TOTH CASE AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT.) ZAGREB "JESNIK" STORY BEING SENT SEPTEL MENTIONED SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE AS PART OF PATTERN OF PRESSURE LEADING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIJACKING.

5. WE TOLD YOU SO -- YUGOSLAV COMMENTS HAVE STRESSED THE MANY PREVIOUS WARNINGS AND PROTESTS WHICH THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS MADE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF EMIGRE TERRORISTS. EDITORIALS PICTURE THE HIJACKING AS THE LOGICAL RESULT OF THIRTY YEARS OF TOLERATION OF THE EMIGRES BY THE U.S. AUTHORITIES. WITH

REGARD TO PREVIOUS ACTS OF EMIGRE TERRORISM, "BORBA" SAYS "IN NO CASE WERE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOUND NOR HAS ANY ENERGETIC INVESTIGATION BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THIRTY YEARS."

6. THE U.S. SHOULD NOT HAVE NEGOTIATED -- U.S. HANDLING OF THE SKYJACKING IS CRITICIZED FROM START TO FINISH, PARTICULARLY THE PUBLICATION OF TERRORIST PROPAGANDA. YUGOSLAVIA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, "VECERNJE NOVOSTI," HEADLINED ITS FIRST REPORT OF SKYJACKING "BFI DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS." A COMMENTARY ON BELGRADE TV SEPT 12 COMPLIMENTED THE FRENCH FOR FIRM ACTION TO END THE HIJACKING, BUT CLOSED BY SAYING THAT THE INCIDENT SHOULD HAVE ENDED MANY THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS FROM PARIS. "POLITIKA" BEGINS EDITORIAL, "WHOEVER CARES FOR HIS REPUTATION AND INTEGRITY DOES NOT ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF TERRORISTS, CRIMINALS, KIDNAPPERS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM". IN VIEW OF STATED US POLICY OF NO NEGOTIATION, TANJUG FINDS IT "ASTONISHING THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY, CITING HUMANITARIAN REASONS, TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE HIJACKERS." TANJUG SAYS THAT THE FBI IS NOW "IN THE ROLE OF PROPAGATORS OF TERRORISM AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES." "TANJUG" CHARACTERIZES THE FBI AS "BEHAVING IN AN IMPERMISSIBLE WAY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND YUGOSLAVIA."

7. IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE EMIGRES -- EDITORIALS CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES TO FINALLY TAKE ACTION AGAINST EMIGRE TERRORISTS. "BORBA" SAYS "IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL DO WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGOPUNISHING THE SKYJACKERS BY ITSELF WILL NOT BE ENOUGH."

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8. BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE AFFECTED -- CALL FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION IS USUALLY COUPLED WITH MENTION OF DETRIMENTAL EFFECT WHICH EMIGRE TERRORISM HAS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN STRONGEST SUCH STATEMENT TANJUG DIPLOMATIC EDITOR WRITES, "WRONG ARE ALL THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO THINK THAT US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS CAN BE MAINTAINED NORMALLY WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, THE US TOLERATES ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORIST ACTIVITIES." SILBERMAN. UNQTE: ROBINSON

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